



## Trump supporters storm U.S. Capitol, lawmakers evacuated

By LISA MASCARO, ERIC TUCKER and MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Violent protesters loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday and forced lawmakers into hiding, in a stunning attempt to overturn America's presidential election, undercut the nation's democracy and keep Democrat Joe Biden from replacing Trump in the White House. One woman was confirmed to have been shot and killed. The National Guard and state and federal police were called in for control, and rare evening curfews were declared in Washington and nearby Virginia suburbs. The protesters were egged

on for weeks by Trump, who since the November presidential election had launched a barrage of false attacks on the integrity of the results. While rallying his supporters outside the White House Wednesday morning, he urged them to march to the Capitol. But later — hours after they fought police and breached the building — he told them in a video that although they were "very special people" and he backed their cause, they should "go home in peace."

Other than a pair of tweets and that minute-long video, Trump was largely disengaged from the occupation of a main seat of the nation's government.

Continued on next page



# MOB RULE

Police hold off Trump supporters who tried to break through a police barrier, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, at the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

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**People shelter in the House gallery as protesters try to break into the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington.**

**Associated Press**

It was Vice President Mike Pence, not Trump, who spoke with senior defense leaders about calling up the National Guard. President-elect Biden, two weeks away from being inaugurated, had declared in Wilmington, Delaware: "I call on President Trump to go on national television now to fulfill his oath and defend the Constitution and demand an end to this siege."

Biden said that democracy was "under unprecedented assault," a sentiment echoed by many in Congress, including some Republicans. Former President George W. Bush said in a statement, "This is how election results are disputed in a banana republic – not our democratic republic." Without actually naming Trump, he said the assault on the Capitol "was undertaken

by people whose passions have been inflamed by falsehoods and false hopes. Insurrection could do grave damage to our Nation and reputation." Even for a Capitol building that has seen centuries of protests and even violence — including a 1954 shooting involving Puerto Rican nationalists — Wednesday's events were astounding because they appeared to unfold at least initially with

the blessing of the president and also because of the underlying goal of overturning the results of a lawful presidential election. The chaotic protests halted Congress' constitutionally mandated counting of the Electoral College results, in which Biden defeated Trump, 306-232. Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell had tried to steer Congress away from Wednesday's formal protest of those results, and he said at the start of proceedings that Trump had clearly lost.

Wednesday's ordinarily mundane procedure of Congress certifying a new president was always going to be extraordinary, with Republican supporters of Trump vowing to protest election results that have been certified by the states. But even the unusual deliberations, which included Vice President Mike Pence and Senate Majority Leader McConnell defying Trump's demands, were quickly overtaken by the chaos.

In a raucous, out-of-control scene, protesters fought past police and breached the building, shouting and waving Trump and American flags as they marched through the halls. One person was reported shot at the Capitol, according to a person familiar with the situation. That person's condition was unknown. At least one explosive device was found but law enforcement said it did not pose a threat.

More than a dozen people were arrested. As darkness began to set in, law enforcement officials worked their way toward the protesters, using percussion grenades to try to clear the area around the Capitol. Big clouds of tear gas were visible. Police in full riot gear moved down the steps, clashing with demonstrators.

It added up a frightening scene for lawmakers, who were directed to take extraordinary action for their own safety. The protesters abruptly interrupted the congressional proceedings in an eerie scene that featured official warnings directing people to duck

under their seats for cover and put on gas masks after tear gas was used in the Capitol Rotunda. Some House lawmakers tweeted they were sheltering in place in their offices. Rep. Scott Peters, D-Calif., told reporters he was in the House chamber when protesters began storming it. Security officers "made us all get down, you could see that they were fending off some sort of assault, it looked like. They had a piece of furniture up against the door, the door, the entry to the floor from the Rotunda, and they had guns pulled," Peters said. "And they just told us to take our pins off," he added, referring to lapel pins members wear so Capitol Police can quickly identify them. Then the lawmakers were evacuated.

A clerk helped grabbed the boxes of Electoral College votes as the evacuation took place. Otherwise, said Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., the ballots likely would have been destroyed by the protesters.

Trump supporters posting on internet forums popular with far-right fringe elements celebrated the chaos. Messages posted on one turned from profane frustration over the content of Trump's speech to glee when supporters stormed the building. At least one leading figure was livestreaming video from inside the Capitol during the siege.

The Pentagon said about 1,100 District of Columbia National Guard members were being mobilized to help support law enforcement at the Capitol.

Pence was closely watched as he stepped onto the dais to preside over the joint session in the House chamber.

Pence had a largely ceremonial role, opening the sealed envelopes from the states after they are carried in mahogany boxes used for the occasion, and reading the results aloud. But he was under growing pressure from Trump to overturn the will of the voters and tip the results in the president's favor, despite having no legal power to affect the outcome. □

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# Arizona border deaths hit 10-year high after record heat

**PHOENIX (AP)** — A project that maps the bodies of border-crossers recovered from Arizona's inhospitable deserts, valleys and mountains said it documented 227 deaths in 2020, the highest in a decade after the hottest, driest summer in state history.

The previous annual high mapped by the Pima County Medical Examiner's Office in Tucson and the nonprofit Humane Borders was 224 migrant deaths in 2010.

Enforcement efforts in California and Texas over the years have pushed migrants into dangerous terrain in Arizona without easy access to food and water. Humanitarian groups like No More Deaths leave water jugs and other provisions in remote parts of southern Arizona in hopes of saving lives in a region where nearly 3,400 migrant deaths have been documented since 2004.

Despite the increase in deaths, U.S. Border Patrol apprehension figures suggest that the number of migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally in Arizona has actually fallen by almost 50% over 10 years.



In this Aug. 22, 2019, file photo, U.S. Customs and Patrol agents sit along a section of the international border wall that runs through Organ Pipe National Monument in Lukeville, Ariz.

Associated Press

There were 131,759 migrants apprehended between Oct. 1, 2018, and Sept. 30, 2019, in the Border Patrol's Yuma and Tucson sectors, which cover the entire Arizona border, compared with more than 248,624 in the same 12 months from 2008 to 2009. Immigration scholars say they expect a wave of people from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador

to try to cross the U.S.-Mexico border this year following a pair of disastrous hurricanes in Central America and with a Joe Biden administration after four years of hardline policies under President Donald Trump.

"Heading north will continue to be seen as an option," Andrew Selee, president of the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute, wrote in November in *Americas Quar-*

terly magazine. "President-elect Joe Biden has promised to do things differently, treating migrants and asylum-seekers with dignity."

Selee warned that sudden policy changes could encourage would-be border-crossers to flood north.

Dr. Greg Hess, Pima County's medical examiner, and Michael Kreyche, mapping project coordinator with Humane Borders, have said

they believe the summer's record heat and dry weather were the main causes of the unprecedented number of deaths in 2020.

The National Weather Service in Phoenix says the average high temperature was nearly 110 degrees (43 degrees Celsius) in July and nearly 111 in August, helping make it the hottest summer in history. Phoenix's highs tend to be similar to those in Arizona's Sonoran Desert north of Mexico, forecasters say.

The weather service said July and August also were the state's driest summer months on record.

While many remains recovered last year were weathered, partial skeletons that indicated older deaths, there were considerably more recent deaths in 2020 than in previous years, said Dr. Bruce Anderson, forensic anthropologist with the Pima County medical examiner's office.

Some officials and activists working near the Arizona border, including recently retired Santa Cruz County Sheriff Tony Estrada, have said they believe border wall construction also pushed migrants into riskier places to avoid workers. □

# Romney heckled in airport in another show of GOP divisions

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**

Associated Press

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)** — Supporters of President Donald Trump heckled Republican U.S. Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah in an airport, illustrating divisions in the Republican Party between Trump loyalists and those ready to accept the results of the presidential election.

Romney has been considered Trump's sharpest GOP critic and is among a group of senators who called for an end to an effort to overturn President-elect Joe Biden's win. Video of the airport confrontation posted online Tuesday night came as Trump backers around the U.S. traveled to Washington, D.C., for demonstrations as Congress meets to accept the Electoral College vote. It's

being contested by some GOP lawmakers, but the effort is all but certain to fail. Romney, the 2012 GOP presidential nominee, has a deep well of popularity in Utah, but a significant slice of the conservative state's electorate is angry with him for criticizing Trump, said Damon Cann, a political science professor at Utah State University.

The confrontation "shows how deeply divided we are, not only as a country but how deeply divided Republicans are," Cann said. Going forward, "Republicans need to find out who the person is who can pull the party together."

Video of a woman walking up to Romney as he worked on a computer in the Salt Lake City airport and later referring to him

as a "disgusting shame" gained widespread attention online and was followed by another clip of people chanting "traitor" at him on the plane.

His counterpart, Sen. Mike Lee, is a staunch Trump supporter but called for civility after the video made the rounds.

"Harassing your political opponents on a plane is not acceptable," he said in a tweet.

Trump, however, referenced the incident as he took a dig at Romney during a rally Wednesday, saying, "I wonder if he enjoyed his flight in last night."

Romney shrugged off the airport confrontation in comments to reporters Wednesday, calling it "the nature of politics, unfortunately."



Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, and others watch as a joint session of the House and Senate convenes to confirm the Electoral College votes cast in November's election, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021.

Associated Press

He did not soften his own rhetoric on Trump, saying the president "disrespected the American voters, has dishonored the election system and has disgraced the office of the presiden-

cy." Romney won't face another election for nearly four more years, but he'll likely still feel political repercussions in the form of a primary challenger, Cann said. □



# 2 detectives involved in Breonna Taylor's death are fired

By DYLAN LOVAN  
Associated Press

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)** — Two more officers involved in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor have been fired — a detective believed to have fired the fatal shot and another who sought the search warrant that led to the deadly raid, authorities announced Wednesday.

The announcement came moments after city officials said the former Atlanta police chief would soon take over the Louisville Police Department after months of unrest over Taylor's death. Erika Shields served in Atlanta for 25 years, including more than three years as chief. Her tenure ended when she resigned in June after Atlanta officers fatally shot a Black man named Rayshard Brooks in a restaurant parking lot.

Detectives Myles Cosgrove, who shot Taylor, and Joshua Jaynes, who sought the warrant for the March 13 drug raid, were informed of their firings on Tuesday. Their dismissals follow that of officer Brett Hankison, who was fired in September after being indicted by a grand jury on charges of endangering Taylor's neighbors by firing bullets that went through her home and into an adjacent apartment.

Taylor, a 26-year-old Black emergency medical technician, was killed as officers attempted to serve a no-knock search warrant. None of the three white officers who fired into her home were charged by a grand jury in her death.

Investigators said Cosgrove fired 16 rounds into the apartment after police breached the front door and Taylor's boyfriend fired a shot at them. Federal ballistics experts said they believe the shot that killed



**Former Atlanta Police Chief Erika Shields speaks after being named the new Louisville, Ky., police chief on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021.**

Associated Press

Taylor came from Cosgrove.

In Cosgrove's dismissal letter, interim Police Chief Yvette Gentry wrote that the detective violated the department's use-of-force policies for firing 16 shots without identifying a target and for not activating his body camera.

Gentry cited Cosgrove's statements to internal investigators that he began firing at a "distorted shadowy mass" after Taylor's boyfriend fired a single shot at officers.

"The shots you fired were in three different directions, indicating you did not verify a threat or have target acquisition," Gentry wrote. Jaynes, the detective who sought the narcotics warrant that led to the raid,

was "untruthful" about how he obtained some information about Taylor in the warrant, Gentry wrote. Jaynes was not at the scene the night Taylor was shot.

In a May interview with Louisville police investigators, Jaynes acknowledged that he did not personally verify that a drug-trafficking suspect was receiving mail at Taylor's apartment, even though he had said in an earlier affidavit that he had. Jaynes said he relied instead on information from a fellow officer.

"I acknowledge that you prepared the warrant in good faith," Gentry wrote in a letter to Jaynes. "However you failed to inform the judge that you had no contact with the US postal inspector."

Jaynes and Cosgrove have been on administrative reassignment, along with another officer who was at the raid, Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly.

Mattingly was shot in the leg by Taylor's boyfriend, who said he thought an intruder was breaking into the home. Mattingly said in October that he intended to retire.

In September, Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron, who took on the role of special prosecutor in the case, said Cosgrove and Mattingly were not charged with Taylor's killing because they acted to protect themselves. The decision disappointed and angered protesters who have been calling for justice for Taylor for six months, and they vowed to stay in the streets until all the officers involved were fired or someone was charged with her killing.

Three grand jurors have since come forward to say that Cameron did not allow the grand jury to consider homicide-related charges

against the officers for Taylor's death. Speaking anonymously, the jurors said they believe they would have brought criminal charges against the officers if given the chance.

For months, Taylor's name has been a rallying cry for activists protesting police killings of Black men and women. Famous musicians, actors, athletes and politicians have called for the officers' arrests.

Trust between police and many in the city's Black community has frayed since Taylor's death, which sparked the firing of the city's longtime chief, Steve Conrad. Two interim chiefs, including Gentry, the first Black woman to the lead the department, have served since Conrad was fired in June.

Shields will be the fourth person to lead the police force in Kentucky's largest city since Taylor was shot.

"I commit to begin my work here with a focus on rebuilding community trust, trust that I believe was already eroding prior to Breonna Taylor's killing," Shields said. She also pledged to tackle gun violence in the city, which had a record 173 homicides in 2020.

Shields said she was "sickened" by Brooks' shooting and that staying on as chief in Atlanta would have amounted to a distraction. To Louisville residents who might be upset over her hiring, Shields said she "would just ask that people step back, take the time to see what I accomplished, what I believe in and how I led the department."

Shields starts the job on Jan. 19.

A day earlier, a Wisconsin prosecutor declined to file charges against a white police officer who shot a Black man in the back in August in Kenosha. The wounding of Jacob Blake, who was left paralyzed, also sparked protests over police brutality and racism. Authorities concluded that they could not disprove the officer's contention that he acted in self-defense because he feared Blake would stab him. □





# Pakistani Shiites continue sit-in over killing of 11 miners

By **ABDUL SATTAR** and **MU-NIR AHMED**

**Associated Press**

**QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)** —

Hundreds of minority Shiites continued a sit-in for a fourth straight day Wednesday in southwestern Pakistan to protest the killing of 11 Shiite Hazara coal miners by the Islamic State group. Despite Prime Minister Imran Khan's request that the miners be buried, family members insisted they would do so only when Prime Minister Imran Khan personally visits them to assure their protection.

Residents and relatives began their protest Sunday on the outskirts of the city of Quetta after IS militants abducted and then shot and killed the miners in Baluchistan province.

Six died at the scene and five, critically wounded, died on the way to a hospital.

The Sunni IS affiliate has declared war on minority Shiite Muslims in Pakistan and Afghanistan and staged dozens of attacks in the two counties since emerging in the region in 2014.

Pakistan's Hazara community has been targeted



**People from the Shiite Hazara community chant slogans during a sit-in to protest the killing of coal mine workers by gunmen near the Machh coal field, in Quetta, Pakistan, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021.**

**Associated Press**

many times in recent years by Sunni militant groups, including the Islamic State group, which quickly claimed responsibility after the abduction and killing of the miners.

Police video of the bodies revealed the miners were blindfolded and had their hands tied behind their backs before being shot. Sunday's attack took place

near the Machh coal field, about 48 kilometers (30 miles) east of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan.

Since then, police have been conducting raids to arrest the attackers.

Under Islamic tradition, burials take place as quickly as possible after death. But Shiites were refusing to bury the dead. They also said they would not hold

funerals until authorities arrest the killers.

Khan on Wednesday took to Twitter to request that the Hazara community bury the coal miners and said he would soon visit them.

"I want to reassure the Hazara families who lost their loved ones in a brutal terrorist attack in Machh that I am cognizant of their suffering & their demands. We

are taking steps to prevent such attacks in the future & know our neighbour is instigating this sectarian terrorism," he said, in an apparent reference to archrival neighbor India.

"I will come again very soon to offer prayers and condole with all the families personally. I will never betray my people's trust. Please bury your loved ones so their souls find peace," he tweeted.

Angered over the killing, hundreds of Hazara community members blocked several roads in Karachi, demanding protection from the government and urging authorities to arrest those linked to the killings. Government officials tried to convince them to end their protest peacefully, officials and police said.

Shiites also held similar sit-ins in major cities of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province, demanding justice and threatening they will expand their protest if the killers are not arrested.

"We want a decisive action and the arrest of all those who killed our people," Daud Agha, a Shiite leader told reporters in Quetta. □

# Europeans press Iran to back down on uranium enrichment

**BERLIN (AP)** — Germany, France and Britain pressed Iran on Wednesday to reverse a decision to start enriching uranium to levels beyond the limits of a 2015 nuclear agreement, a move which they said "risks compromising" chances of diplomacy with the incoming U.S. administration.

The foreign ministers of the three European nations said in a joint statement that the Iranian activity "has no credible civil justification." They said the enrichment was a clear violation of the 2015 deal between Iran and six world powers and "further hollows out the agreement."

The United States unilaterally withdrew from the agreement in 2018, and the remaining countries that signed it with Iran — Germany, France, Britain,

China and Russia — have been trying to keep the accord from collapsing.

On Monday, Iran began enriching uranium to levels unseen since the 2015 deal. The decision appeared aimed at increasing Tehran's leverage during U.S. President Donald Trump's waning days in office.

Iran informed the International Atomic Energy Agency of its plans to increase enrichment to 20% last week. Increasing enrichment at its underground Fordo facility puts Tehran a technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%.

The purpose of the deal was to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear bomb — something Tehran insists it doesn't want to do. The three European powers have expressed hope that

with the change of administrations in Washington, the U.S. might rejoin the agreement.

President-elect Joe Biden has said he hopes to return the U.S. to the deal.

Complicating that goal is that Iran — which is seeking relief from crippling U.S. sanctions — is now in violation of most major restrictions set out in the agreement.

The uranium enrichment move "undermines the joint commitment" made on Dec. 21 by participants in the deal to preserve the agreement, the European ministers said in their statement Wednesday.

"It also risks compromising the important opportunity for a return to diplomacy with the incoming U.S. administration," the statement said.



**In this photo released by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, spokesman of the organization Behrouz Kamalvandi, center, briefs the media while visiting Fordo nuclear site near Qom, south of Tehran, Iran Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019.**

**Associated Press**

"We strongly urge Iran to stop enriching uranium to up to 20% without delay, reverse its enrichment program to the limits agreed in the (agreement) and to refrain from any further escalatory steps which would

further reduce the space for effective diplomacy," the ministers added.

A decision to begin enriching to 20% purity a decade ago nearly triggered an Israeli strike targeting Iran's nuclear facilities. □



# Qatar emerges from Gulf spat resolute and largely unscathed

By AYA BATRAWY

Associated Press

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — Qataris awoke

to a surprise blockade and boycott by Gulf Arab neighbors 3 1/2 years ago, and this week were jolted again by the sudden announcement that it was all over.

The period in between was bitter, with mud-slinging by both sides and viscous media blitzes, social media trolling, expensive lobbying efforts in Washington, and allegations of hacks and leaks. Criticism of the boycott was a criminal offense in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt as the four sought to punish Qatar.

Qatar's resolve in the face of the assault showed how little the campaign achieved as the small, but influential U.S. ally holds firm with its ties to Turkey, Iran and Islamists.

"In terms of foreign policy, the international relations of the blockade, Qatar didn't have to change much because the blockade was on such shaky ground to start," said Jocelyn Sage Mitchell, an assistant professor in residence at Northwestern University's campus in Qatar.

She said the quartet's efforts to internationally isolate Qatar failed. This, coupled with an incoming Biden administration in Washington that is expected to take a firmer stance toward Saudi Arabia and re-engage with Iran, put Qatar in a strong negotiating position.

"I don't expect to see any concessions or changes of significance from Qatar," Mitchell said. "Doha is actually used, and recognized, and welcomed for their ability to be the ally in the middle."

On Monday night, Saudi Arabia ended its embar-



In this May 5, 2018, file photo, the images of the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani hang on the towers in Doha, Qatar.

Associated Press

go, opening its airspace and, in the coming days, its land crossing to its tiny Gulf neighbor. On Tuesday, Gulf Arab leaders and a representative from Egypt gathered in Saudi Arabia and signed a declaration to start a new page in brotherly relations, effectively ending Qatar's isolation among the quartet.

So stark was the about-face that Saudi Arabia's crown prince embraced Qatar's ruling emir upon his arrival to the summit, and later drove him to see historic desert sites in the area. In a nod to their fraternal ties, Qatar's emir landed in a jet named after an ancient town located in Saudi Arabia's landlocked Najd region, the birthplace of his Bani Tamim tribe.

Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, was 37 years old when the crisis erupted in mid-2017, marking the biggest political challenge of his rule.

In the initial days of the boycott, worried residents rushed to grocery stores in the capital, Doha, emptying shelves of milk and

other imported food items. Qatar's government immediately drew from its substantial cash reserves, used alternative shipping and flight routes, flew in thousands of cattle to ensure a steady supply of fresh dairy and deepened alliances with Turkey and Iran.

Qatar also used its strategic location in the Persian Gulf as the world's largest producer of liquefied natural gas to continue shipments to major world powers. Construction supplies were rerouted, allowing Qatar to continue pace with building new roads, hotels and mega-stadiums as it prepares to host the FIFA World Cup in 2022.

Sheikh Tamim's resolve and handling of the crisis catapulted his popularity at home. His image was plastered on high-rise buildings and car windows with pledges of loyalty and slogans praising him as "glorious". Qatar's National Museum dedicated a gallery to the nation's solitary under his leadership amid the crisis.

The young ruler, now 40,

was seen as a "firm, steady, wise and mature hand at the wheel," said Mitchell, who has lived in Qatar for 13 years and witnessed the country of 2.7 million people rally around their leader.

Economically, the uber-wealthy nation took a hit from the blockade. Qatar Airways says it lost billions of dollars by being blocked from the quartet's airspace and markets.

Despite the pressure, Qatar's ability to assert its sovereign independence was strengthened by the crisis. Now that the embargo has ended, Qatar may soften some of its policies, but it's unlikely to sever ties with Turkey, said Ayham Kamel, head of Eurasia Group's Middle East and North Africa division.

"As a result, all the Gulf countries will not align their foreign policies," he said. "These issues could once again become problematic as Qatari support for Muslim Brotherhood organizations across the region could become significant." Days after the crisis erupted, the quartet issued a list of 13 demands on Qatar, ordering it to shutter its Al Jazeera news network, expel a small contingency of Turkish troops from its territory, cut ties with the Muslim Brotherhood and hand over political dissidents living in exile there.

Qatar rejected the demands.

Although it stamps out dissent domestically, Qatar framed its support of opposition Islamist groups in other Arab countries as a sign of its tolerance and pluralistic approach.

When asked about the list by CNN's Becky Anderson on Tuesday, a top Emirati diplomat downplayed its significance.

"The 13 demands at the time were what I would consider a maximalist negotiating position," Anwar Gargash said.

Pivoting to the UAE's new public stance, he said the focus now is on beginning the process of healing. Still, he said one should be realistic about the road ahead.

"The issue of rebuilding confidence is one that takes time, takes some energy and takes a lot of transparency," he said, adding: "We have to work at making this deal quite waterproof in many ways."

On Wednesday, Qatari news websites, including the Doha-based Al Jazeera English and Arabic pages, were still blocked in the UAE. There was, however, a palpable shift in tone in state-linked news outlets, signaling a new understanding. Newspapers in the UAE and Saudi Arabia led with front-page photos of Tuesday's Gulf summit and positive headlines of the rift ending.

While there is relief that tensions have eased, there is also deep skepticism among Gulf Arab citizens. Families who'd intermarried with Qataris were divided, Qataris living in the UAE and Saudi Arabia were expelled, and social ties were frayed by the crisis.

"When you're connected to these countries by ties of family and friendship, it's painful to watch it descend into what it did," said Ahmed Al-Omran, a Saudi analyst and author of the Riyadh Bureau newsletter. "People I think will be happy to see and hear less nasty exchanges in media, and personal attacks and all of this ugliness that marked this dispute." □





# WikiLeaks founder Assange denied bail in UK

By JILL LAWLESS

**LONDON (AP)** — A British judge on Wednesday denied bail to WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange, ordering him to remain in a high-security prison while U.K. courts decide whether he will be sent to the United States to face espionage charges.

District Judge Vanessa Baraitser said Assange must remain in prison while the courts consider an appeal by U.S. authorities against her decision not to extradite him.

The judge said Assange "has an incentive to abscond" and there is a good chance he would fail to return to court if freed.

On Monday, Baraitser rejected an American request to send Assange to the U.S. to face spying charges over WikiLeaks' publication of secret military documents a decade ago. She denied extradition on health grounds, saying the 49-year-old Australian was likely to kill himself if held under harsh U.S. prison conditions.

Wednesday's bail ruling means Assange must remain in London's high-security Belmarsh Prison where he has been held since he was arrested in April 2019 for skipping bail during a separate legal battle seven years earlier.

Assange's partner, Stella Moris, said the decision was "a huge disappointment." WikiLeaks spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson said "it is inhumane. It is illogical."

Several dozen Assange supporters gathered outside London's Westminster Magistrates' Court, shouting "Free Assange." Police said seven people were arrested for breaching coronavirus lockdown rules.

Lawyers for the U.S. government have appealed the decision not to extradite Assange, and the case will be heard by Britain's High Court at an unspecified date.

Clair Dobbin, a British lawyer acting for the U.S., said Assange had shown he would go "to almost any length" to avoid extradition, and it was likely he



Julian Assange supporters demonstrate outside the Westminster Magistrates Court during his bail hearing at the court, where Judge Vanessa Baraitser denied bail in London, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021.

would flee if granted bail. She noted that Assange had spent seven years inside Ecuadorian Embassy in London after seeking refuge there from a Swedish extradition request in 2012. Dobbin said Assange had the "resources, abilities and sheer wherewithal" to evade justice once again, and noted that Mexico has said it will offer him asylum. But Assange's lawyer, Edward Fitzgerald, said the judge's decision to refuse extradition "massively reduces" any motivation to abscond.

"Mr. Assange has every reason to stay in this jurisdiction where he has the protection of the rule of law and this court's decision," he said.

Fitzgerald said it's also unclear whether the incoming Joe Biden administration will pursue the prosecution, initiated under President Donald Trump.

Fitzgerald said Assange would be safer awaiting the outcome of the judicial process at home with Moris and their two young sons — fathered while he was in the embassy — than in prison, where there is "a very grave crisis of COVID." But the judge ruled that Assange still had a strong motive to flee.

"As far as Mr. Assange is concerned this case has

not yet been won," she said. "Mr. Assange still has an incentive to abscond from these as yet unresolved proceedings."

U.S. prosecutors have indicted Assange on 17 espionage charges and one charge of computer misuse over WikiLeaks' publication of thousands of leaked military and diplomatic documents. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison.

American prosecutors say Assange unlawfully helped U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning steal classified diplomatic cables and military files that were later published by WikiLeaks.

Lawyers for Assange argue that he was acting as a journalist and is entitled to First Amendment protections of freedom of speech for publishing documents that exposed U.S. military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The judge rejected that argument in her extradition ruling, saying Assange's actions, if proven, would amount to offenses "that would not be protected by his right to freedom of speech." She also said the U.S. judicial system would give him a fair trial.

But the judge agreed that U.S. prison conditions would be oppressive, saying there

"I am satisfied that, in these harsh conditions, Mr. Assange's mental health would deteriorate, causing him to commit suicide," she said in her ruling.

Assange's legal troubles began in 2010, when he was arrested in London at the request of Sweden, which wanted to question him about allegations of rape and sexual assault made by two women. In 2012, Assange jumped bail and sought refuge inside the Ecuadorian Embassy, where he was beyond the reach of U.K. and Swedish authorities — but also effectively was a prisoner in the tiny diplomatic mission. The relationship between Assange and his hosts eventually soured, and he was evicted from the embassy in April 2019. British police immediately arrested him for breaching bail in 2012.

Sweden dropped the sex crimes investigations in November 2019 because so much time had elapsed, but Assange has remained in prison throughout his extradition hearing. □

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# LOCAL



**EAGLE BEACH — The Kitchen Table is an elegant, classy, intimate, high-quality restaurant with an exceptional dining set-up. Dining here is an experience, a kind of sitting-at your- best- friend's or family's kitchen table where you feel and taste that the food contains love. Are you looking for something different, an ecstatic foody trip, than this is where you need to go.**

The 7-8 course gastronomic journey will start with sparkling wine at the patio of The Kitchen Table's new location at Paradise Beach Villas as of 6.45PM. Around 7.00PM guests will be guided for a memorable dinner on the second floor of the other popular restaurant Asi Es Mi Peru. The dining concept reflects extraordinary, elegant and exquisite dishes from the Caribbean, Peruvian fusion and

## **The Kitchen Table enters sixth year of gastronomic success on NEW location: A very fine culinary journey of Caribbean and Peruvian fusion cuisine**



international cuisine created by the owners, Chef David Lizano and his team. To pair the perfect wines three sommeliers were invited to make the selection.

The interior of the restaurant is if you were in an elegant establishment in Lima, the capital city of Peru. You feel elevated in the top of the building where dinner takes place in an intimate setting. The typical, colorful Peruvian fabrics dress the ceiling while the large windows dignify the room. There are only 16 seats available creating an intimacy underlined by the owner's personal attention. "This is an amazing experience," says Robert J. Giordanella from New York. "The food is truly divine," shares a local guest. An evening at The Kitchen Table will be noted as unforgettable in your book of vacation memories, as it

stands out from the regular island dinners.

### **It is all about consistency**

The Peruvian-born Roxanna Salinas and her husband Jan van Nes are the secret formula behind The Kitchen Table's success. The couple takes a personal approach to what they do, this is not about running a business as usual. This is more about making you feel welcomed home, as well as being pampered. They bring top hospitality, experience and authenticity to the table. Within this gourmet dinner concept the two blended the Peruvian culinary art of Roxanna's top kitchen team and Jan's expertise from The Kitchen Table. The result is one big trip of delight, indulge and tickling of your taste buds. The Kitchen Table welcomes you with open arms every Tuesday to Saturday.

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In the last ten years, Peru has been recognized as one of the world's best culinary destinations, and for seven consecutive years, the South American country has won the award for the Best Culinary destination at the Worlds Travel Awards. Biodiversity combined multiculturalism are the reasons why Peru is so rich in gastronomy. You can travel through the last 500 years, touch a mix of cultures whenever you taste authentic Peruvian cuisine. The Kitchen Table brings this epicurean delicacies to Aruba paired perfectly with the best wines and they will make you understand why Peru is at the height of today's gastronomy. The Kitchen Table is open from Tuesday to Saturday. Have a peak on their website [www.thekitchentable-inaruba.com](http://www.thekitchentable-inaruba.com) or call them at +297-280 7117. □







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## The United Nations: “2021, International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development”

**ORANJESTAD** — For all creatives around the world and Aruba, this new year starts with a bang as the United Nations declares 2021 the International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development. This decision originated on November 8th 2019 at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly (Full UN article available: <https://undocs.org/A/C.2/74/L.16/Rev.1>). Back then COVID-19 was still not declared a global pandemic and since then the corona virus amongst many other economies has detrimentally impacted the Creative Industries around the world, leaving it and its professionals completely vulnerable and fragmented. However, with this new light shining on the Creative Industries, the aim is to find innovative solutions and opportunities for developing countries like Aruba to empower its people and to recover economic impact post-covid.

Interestingly, the Eastern World is catching up on the Creative Industry train and according to UNCTAD (2020) “Indonesia was the main sponsor of the proposal, which was presented by a global grouping of countries, including Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines and Thailand. The proposal recognized the need to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, foster innovation and provide opportunities, benefits and empowerment for all and respect for all human rights.

It also identified the ongoing need to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in diversifying production and exports, including in new sustainable growth areas, including creative industries. It encourages all to observe the year in accordance with national priorities to raise awareness, promote cooperation and networking, encourage sharing best practices and experiences, enhance human resource capacity, promote an enabling environment at all levels as well as tackle the challenges of the creative economy” (<https://unctad.org>).

By focusing this year on the Creative Industry, the United Nations General Assembly sheds light on persisting need to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, foster innovation and provide opportunities, benefits and empowerment for all and respect for all human rights. By recognizing, acknowledging, and recommitting to innovation through creative and cultural output and knowledge-based output we ensure equitable development. This would mean:

1. Recognizing that the creative economy, known as the “orange economy” in a number of countries, involves, knowledge-based economic activities and the interplay between human creativity and ideas, knowledge and



technology, as well as cultural values or artistic, cultural heritage and other individual or collective creative expressions.

2. Acknowledging that creative industries can help to foster positive externalities while preserving and promoting cultural heritages and diversity, as well as enhance developing countries' participation in and benefit from new and dynamic growth opportunities in world trade.

3. Recommitting to sustaining and supporting developing countries' economies to transition progressively to higher productivity through high-value-added sectors, by promoting diversification, technological upgrading, research and innovation, including the creation of quality, decent and productive jobs, including through the promotion of cultural and creative industries, sustainable tourism, performing arts and heritage conservation activities, among others.

### Aruba and the creative industries

The development of the Aruban CCI has been a lengthy process. Aruba has yet to formalize its Creative Industry, however in

the meantime has identified the Creative Industry as a prospective economy for a diversified economic future. However, now that the United Nations has declared this year as the year for creative services, creative economic growth, creative jobs, creative development, creative export, and creative innovation for developing countries; where will Aruba stand?

On Monday, the Prime Minister of Aruba announced that 2021 will be the year of recovery. Undeniably, considering the devastating impact Covid-19 is continuing to leave on the world, recovery seems exactly what we should aim for moving forward. Nonetheless, to my surprise the Prime Minister presented a new policy plan titled “Aruba Outdoor Amenity Economy”. She further explains that a small committee was in charge of bringing new ideas, out of the box ideas that could contribute to Aruba innovating its economy. With the Aruba Outdoor Amenity Economy, the government wants to create a new economic pillar based on natural, cultural and monumental amenities Aruba has to offer. This policy and strategic plan will be implemented in

cooperation of 3 different ministries (tourism; economy and culture; and environment and infrastructure) with the hopes of stimulating creative, recreative and cultural activities that will have a socio-economic impact on the island. Some of these activities include beach galleries, arts and crafts galleries located at the Aruban beaches that reflect Caribbean history and culture, especially that specific Aruban amenity.

While listening to this press conference, I felt a bit disappointed that we are still trying to reinvent a wheel that is waiting and ready to be implemented, and that wheel has a name: THE ARUBAN CREATIVE INDUSTRIES. It feels as though walking in circles and coming up with new unknown economies while we have prospective economies in the pipeline just eager to be developed. This not only further confuses people, but is just not necessary. The Creative Industries is a umbrella industry for a collection of smaller niche economies that rely on creative content, products, and services, which have economic, social and cultural impacts on society.

**Continued on Page 10**



## The United Nations: “2021, International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development”

Continued from Page 9

Aruba cannot diversify its economy with singular economies as we seen with the refinery industry and the tourism industry. We need to diversify in collective economies that together contribute sustainably to the Aruban GDP. This way we become less dependent on specific economies, we become less vulnerable to external shocks, and we diversify the labor market to provide opportunities for all.



This entire idea to indirectly stimulate the Arts and Crafts Industry, which internationally is considered one of the niche econo-

mies within the Creative Industry, by introducing a “Aruba Outdoor Amenity Economy” instead of just considering this a strategic

policy in order to develop the Aruban Creative Industry, in my eyes seems as a missed opportunity. By doing this, it only confirms that

Aruban stakeholders are still not aware of what the Creative Industries is and what its impact potential could be for the island. We can't ignore the current struggle most of our local craft artists and souvenir enterprises are experiencing.

Not too long ago in October souvenir and artistic craft artist were all over social media expressing their worries for the decrease in sales and interest from the tourists in purchasing local crafts and souvenirs. So, this new “Aruba Outdoor Amenity Economy” strategy might help stimulate more economic development for local artisans, however, claiming that this will be-

come another successful economic pillar for Aruba, seems a bit far-fetched. Through, developing the Aruban Creative Industry Policy which includes these types of strategies specific to each niche market like the crafts industry, seems more cohesive and makes more economic sense.

### Moving forward

It has not been an easy process for Aruba to diversify its economy. Many times it seems easier said than done. However, I still believe that we as a people can accomplish economic growth and social development for our community. The responsibility is shared between all stakeholders, but the Aruban government has the main responsibility to initiate this process to empower the sector to self-sustain the development. That small steps have been made?, yes, hence why I constantly express that the Aruban Creative Industry Policy should make an appearance sooner rather than later. A holistic and evidence-based policy plan that includes targets for guidance, strategies for implementation and indicators for evaluation and monitoring.

By introducing the “Aruba Outdoor Amenity Economy”, we will not only further confuse people, we will again miss the opportunity of joining other developed and developing countries in solidifying a Creative Industry and to finally structurally partake in this international multi-billion economy. If we want to become an innovative island we should develop a Creative Economy in synergy with the Knowledge-based Economy. Not only for economic growth, but for social equality, cultural development, and environmental conservation.

2021, the year for the creatives of the world!□

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# Trump widens U.S. ban on Chinese apps as his term nears end

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY** and  
**MICHAEL LIEDTKE**

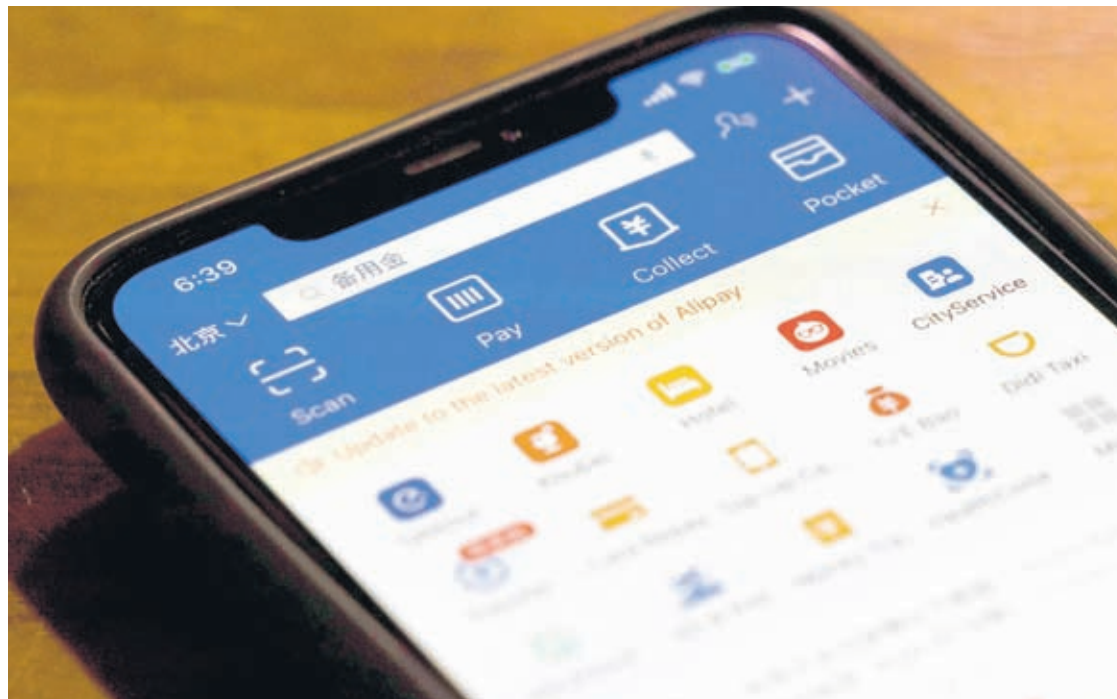
**AP Technology Writers**

President Donald Trump has signed an executive order banning transactions with eight Chinese apps including Alipay and WeChat Pay in an escalation of a trade war that has been unfolding through most of his term.

The order, however, goes into effect in 45 days, nearly a month after Joe Biden will be inaugurated as the next president, so the fate of Trump's action is unclear. The orders follow two others Trump signed in August banning dealings with the popular video app TikTok as well as the main WeChat messaging app. The fate of those apps in the U.S. is still unclear, and with just 15 days left until Inauguration Day, it will likely fall to Biden to deal with them — or not. The same goes for Tuesday's executive order.

A representative for Biden's office did not immediately return a message for comment Tuesday.

Alipay is a widely used digital wallet that is part of the empire of e-commerce billionaire and Ant Group founder Jack Ma. WeChat Pay is a rival service operat-



This July 20, 2020, file photo, shows, the app for Alipay, the mobile payments service operated by Ant Group, on a smartphone in Beijing.

Associated Press

ed by tech giant Tencent. The others named in the order are CamScanner, QQ Wallet, SHAREit, Tencent QQ, VMate and WPS Office.

Trump's order cites unspecified concerns about the apps collecting Americans' personal and financial information and turning it over to China's communist government.

The order marks the Trump administration's latest attempt to hobble China,

a rising economic superpower. Over the past several years, it has lashed out at China with tariffs that have sometimes roiled the U.S. stock market, blocked mergers involving Chinese companies and stifled the business of Chinese firms like Huawei, a maker of phones and telecom equipment. China-backed hackers, meanwhile, have been blamed for data breaches of U.S. federal databases and the credit agency

Equifax, and the Chinese government strictly limits what U.S. tech companies can do in China.

Political analysts expect Biden to try to resume cooperation with Beijing on issues such as climate change and the coronavirus. However, economists and political analysts foresee few big changes due to widespread frustration with Beijing's trade and human rights record and accusations of spying and

technology theft.

But dealing with the fallout from Trump's latest shot at China could still create more headaches for Biden on top of the ongoing efforts to fight a worsening pandemic after he takes office.

Senior Trump administration officials indicated they hadn't consulted with the president-elect's team before issuing the latest effort to ban more China apps. They described the apps as instruments for a communist government bent on "digital totalitarianism."

When reporters asked why the administration was only taking these steps now with the Trump presidency down to its final two weeks, one official said the executive action should have probably been taken years ago, "but better late than never." The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the executive action publicly. National Security Adviser Robert C. O'Brien framed the order as part of Trump's ongoing effort to "prioritize the safety and security of the United States homeland and the American people." □

## Walgreens to sell drug wholesale business for \$6.5B

By **TOM MURPHY**  
**AP Health Writer**

Walgreens Boots Alliance will sell its pharmaceutical wholesale business to AmerisourceBergen in a \$6.5 billion cash and stock deal. Pharmaceutical wholesalers essentially act as middlemen, purchasing drugs from manufacturers and then distributing them to customers like drugstore chains, hospitals and doctor's offices.

Walgreens said Wednesday that the deal will allow it to focus more on expanding its core retail pharmacy business which, like others, has been rattled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Drugstore chains and other retailers were hit hard, particularly last spring, when the pandemic forced

shoppers to stay home and away from their stores. Walgreens estimated in October that the pandemic shaved about \$520 million from its operating income in its final quarter of fiscal 2020. But the drugstore chain also grew sales and prescriptions in the United States and saw some improvement through its Boots stores in the United Kingdom.

Deerfield, Illinois-based Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. runs more than 21,000 stores mainly in the United States and United Kingdom. Drugstores are the main focus of its business, unlike main rival CVS Health Corp., which also operates large insurance and pharmacy benefit management businesses. AmerisourceBergen will

pay nearly \$6.3 billion in cash and 2 million shares of its common stock for Walgreens' Alliance Healthcare business in a deal the companies expect to close by September. Walgreens already owns a nearly 30% stake in AmerisourceBergen.

Alliance Healthcare supplies more than 115,000 pharmacies, physicians and health centers in Europe and Egypt.

The companies also said Wednesday that they will extend their U.S. distribution agreement by three years, until 2029.

Walgreens said in November that it was combining its wholesale business in Germany with McKesson Corp., and it would control 70% of that venture. A Walgreens spokesman



This June 25, 2019, file photo shows the sign outside a Walgreens Pharmacy in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

said Wednesday that the McKesson joint venture was not part of the Amerisource deal.

Shares of AmerisourceBergen Corp., based in Chesterbrook, Pennsylvania, jumped more than 8% to \$105.78 Wednesday afternoon. Walgreens

shares rose more than 4% to \$43.10. Both eclipsed the more than 1% increase from the Dow Jones industrial average, of which Walgreens is a component.

Walgreens will report results from its fiscal first quarter on Thursday. □



# Restoring longleaf pines, keystone of once vast ecosystems

By JANET McCONNAUGHEY  
Associated Press

**DESOTO NATIONAL FOREST, Miss. (AP)** — When European settlers came to North America, fire-dependent savannas anchored by lofty pines with footlong needles covered much of what became the southern United States.

Yet by the 1990s, logging and clear-cutting for farms and development had all but eliminated longleaf pines and the grasslands beneath where hundreds of plant and animal species flourished.

Now, thanks to a pair of modern day Johnny Appleseeds, landowners, government agencies and nonprofits are working in nine coastal states from Virginia to Texas to bring back pines named for the long needles prized by Native Americans for weaving baskets.

Longleaf pines now cover as much as 7,300 square miles (19,000 square kilometers) — and more than one-quarter of that has been planted since 2010.

"I like to say we rescued longleaf from the dustbin. I don't think we had any idea how successful we'd be," said Rhett Johnson, who founded The Longleaf Alliance in 1995 with another Auburn University forestry professor.

That's not to say that the



Silviculturist Keith Coursey stands in a thicket of gallberries - one of the shrubs that would block the sun from grasses and wildflowers in longleaf pine forests without regular fires - in front of a stand of 80- to 85-foot-tall longleaf pines in the DeSoto National Forest on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020.

Associated Press

tall, straight and widely spaced pines will ever gain anything near their once vast extent. But their reach is, after centuries, expanding rather than contracting.

Scientists estimate that longleaf savannas once covered up to 143,750 square miles (372,000 square kilometers), an area bigger than Germany. By the 1990s, less than 3% remained in scattered patches. Most are in areas too wet or dry to farm.

Fire suppression played a critical role on the longleaf's decline. Fires clear and fertilize ground that longleaf seeds must touch to sprout. Properly timed, they also spark seedlings' first growth spurt. And, crucially for the entire ecosystem, they kill shrubs and hardwood trees that would otherwise block the sun from seedlings,

grasses and wildflowers.

"The diversity of the longleaf pine system is below our knees," said Keith Coursey, silviculturist for about 70% of the 529,000-acre (214,100-hectare) DeSoto National Forest in south Mississippi.

Of the 1,600 plant species found only in the Southeast, nearly 900 are only in longleaf forests, including species that trap bugs as well as fire-adapted grasses and wildflowers.

The forests harbor turkeys and quail — but also about 100 other kinds of birds, nearly 40 types of animals and 170 reptile and amphibian species found only among longleaf. One is the gopher tortoise whose burrows shelter scores of animal species including mice, foxes, rabbits, snakes, even birds, and hundreds of kinds of insects.

Plants and animals have lost ground along with the longleaf. Nearly 30 are endangered or threatened. Dozens more are being studied to decide whether they should be protected. Johnson, who retired in 2006 as director of Auburn's Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center in south Alabama, said working surrounded by longleaf made him realize that stands were losing quality and shrinking in range. "Just as alarming, people who understood longleaf were disappearing as well," he said.

Johnson and alliance co-founder Dean Gjerstad spread the word about the tree's importance. "We were like Johnny Appleseed — we were on the road all the time," said Johnson, who retired from the alliance in 2012.

By 2005, the alliance, government agencies, nonprofits, universities and private partners were working together. In 2010, they launched America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative, with a goal of having 12,500 square miles (32,370 square kilometers) of longleaf by 2025.

The initiative built on efforts by federal and state agen-

cies including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide incentives for owners to return land to longleaf pines, Johnson said.

Most of the land planted in the last 10 years had been "highly erodible cropland," he said. "Better a longleaf plantation than a cotton field."

The initiative is trying to ensure that at least half the restored land is close enough to existing forests that plants and animals could, over generations, turn the new stands into functioning ecosystems.

When the ecosystem returns, landowners can look forward to annual income from activities such as hunting and wildlife photography rather than only from intermittent timber harvests, said Kevin Norton, acting chief of the National Resources Conservation Service.

Because most longleaf acreage is privately owned, 80% to 85% of the planting so far has been on private land, said Carol Denhof, president of The Longleaf Alliance.

Another 5,160 square miles (13,360 square kilometers) must be planted or reclaimed from stands overly mixed with other tree species to meet the initiative's 2025 deadline, she said. "I'm hopeful we can get there but ... we have a lot of work to do."

About 400 acres (160 hectares) of land returned to longleaf were planted by the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, for their needles. But branches from most of the first planting are now too high to reach. So Gesse Bullock, the tribe's fire management specialist, said he is pushing for another planting on the 10,200-acre (4,100-hectare) reservation.

Basket weavers include the tribe's realty officer, Elliott Abbey. "When I was younger," he said, "I thought it was work — something my aunts made me do."

Now, Abbey said, "It strikes me in the heart that this could die out." □

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Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
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## PHARMACY ON DUTY

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Eagle Tel. 587 9011

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San NicolasTel. 584 5712

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| Oranjestad     | 527 3140 |
| Noord          | 527 3200 |
| Sta. Cruz      | 527 2900 |
| San Nicolas    | 584 5000 |
| Police Tipline | 11141    |
| Ambulancia     | 911      |
| Fire Dept.     | 115      |
| Red Cross      | 582 2219 |

## TAXI SERVICES

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Taxi Tas         | 587 5900 |
| Prof. Taxi       | 588 0035 |
| Taxi D.T.S.      | 587 2300 |
| Taxi Serv. Aruba | 583 3232 |
| A1 Taxi Serv.    | 280 2828 |

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|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
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| American Airlines | 582 2700 |
| Avianca           | 588 0059 |
| Jet Blue          | 588 2244 |
| Surinam           | 582 7896 |

## AID FOUNDATIONS

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Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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# Vanessa Kirby is raw, dynamic in 'Pieces of a Woman'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**  
AP Film Writer

"Pieces of a Woman" begins with a tragedy. Martha (Vanessa Kirby) is expecting her first child with her partner Sean (Shia LaBeouf). For a few minutes, we see them in the final stages of preparation for life with a baby: She's saying farewell to her co-workers and packing up her things; Her mother is signing the papers on a practical minivan; And they're hanging the final photos up in the well-stocked and tastefully neutral nursery.

Then, suddenly, Martha is in labor and for almost 30 minutes the audience is given a front row seat to the most realistic and graphic depiction of a home birth ever put on film. It's a difficult labor — Martha is almost drunk with pain — and it's made even more stressful by the fact that their midwife is unavailable and a replacement is sent. Then it ends in death.

It is a brutal and harrowing start to a film that is committed to telling the ugly truth about a loss so devastating that it's almost taboo.



This image released by Netflix shows Vanessa Kirby in a scene from "Pieces of a Woman."

Associated Press

And it's just one of many deeply unpleasant occurrences to come. Like Martha and Sean, you are left somewhat paralyzed and drained after the events of the beginning and have no choice but to continue this emotionally wrenching and hauntingly visceral journey with them.

Martha attempts to go about her life but is constantly being reminded of what happened, whether

it's seeing children out in the wild, running into her mother's friend at the grocery store or all the physical postpartum changes that one's body endures regardless of whether or not the child has survived. She's also navigating her own family's grief, arguments over burials and epitaphs and a legal battle against the substitute midwife (Molly Parker), which is thankfully relegated to the

backdrop.

Kirby, the English actor who portrayed Princess Margaret in the first seasons of "The Crown," plays Martha not as a wilting flower but as a kind of steely, determined robot alternating between utterly detached and aggressively angry. It is fiercely unguarded.

If the gutting discomfort feels more authentic than you're used to, it's because the story is personal for the

writer and director couple. Kata Wéber wrote the script based on her own experience losing a child with director Kornél Mundruczó during pregnancy. And "Pieces of a Woman" goes places that many films wouldn't dare. The first half hour will likely get most of the attention but there are a few other jaw-dropping scenes of grief and anger that you must see to believe including a late film argument between Martha and her mother, who is played by Ellen Burstyn.

Aside from the revelatory moments, however, the film unravels a bit as it goes on. The focus turns too often to Sean, a construction worker whose relationship with Martha, an educated professional from a wealthy family, never makes a lot of sense.

His descent is a bundle of clichés and distracts from the uniqueness of Martha's story. He also has a moment of sexual aggression with Martha that is even made even more troublesome to watch in light of the recent allegations against LaBeouf. □

# Neil Young becomes latest artist to sell stake in his songs



In this May 25, 2019, file photo, Neil Young performs at the BottleRock Napa Valley Music Festival at Napa Valley Expo in Napa, Calif.

Associated Press

By **DAVID BAUDER**  
AP Media Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Neil Young has become the latest musician to strike gold with his song catalogue, selling a 50 percent stake in his music to a British investment company in a deal announced on Wednesday.

day.

The Hipgnosis Songs Fund said it had acquired half of the copyright and income interests in some 1,180 songs written by the 75-year-old rock star, composer of "Heart of Gold," "Rockin' in the Free World" and "Cinnamon Girl."

Terms were not disclosed. The deal comes a month after Bob Dylan sold publishing rights to more than 600 songs to the Universal Music Publishing Group for a reported fortune of between \$300 million and a half billion dollars. Stevie Nicks sold an 80 percent stake in her music to Primary Wave for a reported \$100 million.

Merck Mercuriadis, founder of Hipgnosis Songs Fund Limited, said that he bought his first Neil Young album when he was seven years old.

"'Harvest' was my companion and I know every note, every word, every pause and silence intimately," he said. "Neil Young, or at least his music, has been my friend . . . ever since."

The businessman also said Young's late manager, Elliot Roberts, was equally an

idol to him.

In an industry where music sales have dwindled and the concert industry is on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic, song publishing is seen as an increasingly valuable asset. The companies generally push for use of an artist's songs in movies, video games and advertising.

The latter use has been a sticking point for Young, whose 1988 song "This Note's For You" sharply criticized artists who leased their music for advertising campaigns. The accompanying video parodied ads that featured Michael Jackson and Eric Clapton. In the song, Young sang: "Ain't singin' for Pepsi, ain't singin' for Coke. I don't sing for nobody. Makes me look like a joke."

In the years since, it has become much more com-

mon for musicians to earn income through advertising campaigns. But at least through 2016, Young continued to resist having his music used this way, according to Rolling Stone magazine.

It was unclear whether the Hipgnosis deal augers a change in that policy.

In Wednesday's announcement, Mercuriadis said that his company and Young "have a common integrity, ethos and passion born out of a belief in music and these important songs. There will never be a 'Burger of Gold' but we will work together to make sure everyone gets to hear them on Neil's terms."

Young has released some 70 albums as a solo artist and with bands like Buffalo Springfield, Crazy Horse and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. □



# Week 17 scoring bonanza caps record-setting season

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Pro Football Writer

The Week 17 scoring bonanza provided the perfect finish to a record-setting season on offense.

Teams combined for 100 touchdowns in the final week of the season for the second-most in NFL history in a single week behind only the 104 scored in Week 14 of the 2013 season.

That helped finish off the highest-scoring season in NFL history with the 24.8 point per game average topping the previous mark of 23.4 in 2013 and the AFL record of 24.5 in 1961.

There were several players who had memorable seasons of their own to contribute to the high-scoring campaign led by Green Bay's dynamic duo of Aaron Rodgers and Davante Adams.

Rodgers threw 48 TD passes, tied with Dan Marino for fifth most in a season, and posted a 121.5 passer rating, which was second highest to his 122.5 in 2011. Adams led the NFL with 18 touchdown receptions despite missing two games, tied for the third most ever in a season to Randy Moss' 23 in 2007 and Jerry Rice's 22 in 12 games in 1987.

Tom Brady threw 40 TD passes at age 43, joining Rodgers as one of five QBs with at least two 40-TD seasons. Rodgers became the first player with three.

A couple of young quarter-



Tennessee Titans running back Derrick Henry (22) runs for a touchdown as Houston Texans defenders chase him during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021, in Houston.

Associated Press

backs also had memorable years with Buffalo's Josh Allen throwing for 4,544 yards and 37 TDs, to go along with eight touchdown runs. He became the first player with at least 4,500 yards passing, 35 TD passes and five TD runs in a single season.

Justin Herbert of the Chargers set a rookie record with 31 TD passes.

Minnesota's Justin Jefferson had 1,400 yards receiving, the most by a rookie in the Super Bowl era.

It was a big season on the ground, too, with a record 532 TD runs and the 118.9 yards per game ranking as the highest since 1988.

Tennessee's Derrick Henry led the league 2,027 yards rushing, become the eighth player to top 2,000. He also became the first player since LaDainian Tomlinson to lead the league in rushing in back-to-back seasons.

## SCORING MARGIN

The Ravens became the sixth team since the merger to lead the NFL in point differential in back-to-back seasons, finishing this season at plus-165, 20 points ahead of the Saints.

The last team to do it was the Patriots, who led outright on the way to the Super Bowl title in 2016 and were tied with Philadelphia

for first the following season when the Eagles beat New England for the title.

The other repeaters in point differential were the 49ers, who did it four straight years from 1992-95, the Bears (1985-86), Eagles (1980-81) and Steelers (1975-76).

On the other end of the spectrum was Cleveland, which became the ninth team in the Super Bowl era to win at least 10 games while getting outscored (minus-11 points). The Browns joined the 2012 Colts (minus-30) as the only teams to win 11 games in a season when they were outscored.

**NEW YUK, NEW YUK**

The two teams with New York in their name once again finished near the bottom of the NFL. The Jets had the second-worst mark at 2-14 and the Giants were only moderately better at 6-10. It's been a recurring problem for the two teams that play in the shadow of the Big Apple as the Giants haven't been to the playoffs since 2016 and the Jets have the longest active drought since 2010. The two are tied for the worst overall record in the NFL since 2017 with 18-48 marks. It's a far cry from the NFL's other two-team city with the Los Angeles Rams (43-21) and Chargers (33-31) both having winning records in that span.

## TRAVELING CHEF

Wherever Brandin Cooks goes, 1,000-yard receiving seasons seem to follow. Cooks had 81 catches for 1,150 yards in his first season in Houston, giving him at least 1,000 in five of the past six seasons.

Those productive years have come in four cities as Cooks topped the 1,000-yard mark in 2015-16 with New Orleans, 2017 in New England, 2018 with the Los Angeles Rams and this season with the Texans.

The only other player in the Super Bowl era to record 1,000-yard receiving seasons with four franchises is Brandon Marshall, who did it with Denver, Miami, Chicago and the Jets. □

# Al-Attiyah wins third Dakar Rally stage, still 2nd overall

**JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP)** — Nasser Al-Attiyah won a third consecutive stage of the Dakar Rally in Saudi Arabia and remained five minutes behind overall leader Stephane Peterhansel on Wednesday.

Al-Attiyah opened the 337-kilometer (209-mile) special between Wadi Ad-Dawasir and Riyadh and led for almost all of it, out-dueling Toyota teammate and Dakar newcomer Henk Lategan and seven-time champion Peterhansel.

Lategan led the fourth stage briefly after the midway point, while Peterhansel started the last 40 kilometers more than a minute be-

hind but powered home to finish second by just 11 seconds.

"We aren't making too many mistakes," Peterhansel said. "In the old times, 50% of all contenders would be knocked out by driving mistakes or technical issues, but it's become far less common, so you just have to hold on."

Sebastien Loeb also had a great finish to place fourth, while defending champion Carlos Sainz did not, dropping from second to fifth after starting 17th.

Peterhansel remained the overall leader and Al-Attiyah was second. Nobody else was within 30 minutes of them. Sainz was third, Loeb fourth, and Lategan fifth.

Mathieu Serradori, who started the day third overall, suffered an early navigation error, lost more than 20 minutes, and slid to seventh. In the motorbike class, Joan Barreda of Portugal won the stage from starting 30th, and was second overall to Xavier de Soultrait, the fifth different leader in five days. Only 5 1/2 minutes separate the top six riders.

Barreda dominated the stage -- he also won stage two -- followed by Ross Branch of Botswana. Australian newcomer Daniel Sanders was third.

Toby Price, who has also won two stages, had an unplanned detour early and lost five minutes.

Defending champion Ricky Brabec was nearly 13 minutes off the pace, and Pablo Quintanilla, the runner-up last year, was 7 1/2 minutes off. De Soultrait, who was seventh in 2019, led overall by only 15 seconds from Barreda. Branch, Argentine brothers Kevin and Luciano Benavides and previous leader Skyler Howes were all within seven seconds of each other.

"It's difficult to open up large gaps in stages like these," de Soultrait said. "We'd have to attack like a madman, but we're already going very fast. I again reached 175 kph. I could go faster, but I don't feel like it. You also need to follow the roadbook." □



# Chiefs, Packers, Bills are top 3 in final AP Pro32 poll

By **SIMMI BUTTAR**

AP Pro Football Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The play-off field is set and the race to the Super Bowl begins. Thirteen other teams are trying to replace the Kansas City Chiefs as champions of the NFL.

However, none was able to knock off the Chiefs in the final AP Pro32 poll of the 2020 regular season.

There was very little movement in the top part of the poll as the Chiefs finished No. 1. They received 11 of the 12 first-place votes for 382 points in balloting Tuesday by media members who regularly cover the NFL.

The Green Bay Packers kept their spot at No. 2 and got the remaining first-place vote for 368 points.

"Aaron Rodgers likely surpassed Patrick Mahomes down the stretch in the MVP race, capping a brilliant regular season that featured an NFL-best 48 touchdown passes and just five interceptions," Newsday's Bob Glauber said.

"Brilliant stuff from a 37-year-old quarterback who's at the top of his game at just the right time for a Green Bay team with legitimate Super Bowl aspirations."

The Chiefs and Packers each earned byes and will get some rest this weekend. The Buffalo Bills stayed at No. 3. The Bills will open the playoffs on Saturday when they host the Indianapolis Colts, who remained at No. 10 in the poll.

"No team has more mo-



**Buffalo Bills wide receiver Gabriel Davis (13) catches a pass before running in a touchdown against Miami Dolphins defensive back Nik Needham (40) in the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021, in Orchard Park, N.Y.**

Associated Press

mentum entering the postseason than the Bills, who secured the AFC's No. 2 seed with a 56-26 rout of Miami," said Jenny Vrentas of The Monday Morning Quarterback.

"Josh Allen only needed one half to throw three touchdowns, putting a flourish on the best regular season for a Bills quarterback."

The New Orleans Saints stayed at No. 4 and will host the Chicago Bears on Sunday.

"The top four teams look like Super Bowl contenders," said Charean Williams of Pro Football Talk.

"The Bills have played the best lately and go into the postseason as the hottest

team in the AFC if not the NFL, but the Super Bowl is going to go through Kansas City. Until someone knocks off the Chiefs, they are the favorites."

The Bears didn't lose any ground at No. 14 despite their 35-16 loss to the Packers.

The NFC West champion Seattle Seahawks and the AFC North champion Pittsburgh Steelers followed at Nos. 5 and 6, respectively. Both teams will host division rivals in the playoffs. The Seahawks will face the Rams on Saturday. The teams split their two meetings in the regular season, but the Seahawks won the most recent matchup, in Week 16. The Rams moved up two

spots to No. 11 after knocking out the Arizona Cardinals.

The Steelers host the Browns, who stayed at No. 12 in the poll. The Browns beat the Steelers last weekend to make the playoffs for the first time since the 2002 season. They will head to Heinz Field on Sunday night to close out wild-card weekend and will be without coach Kevin Stefanski after he and two players and two other coaching staff members all tested positive for COVID-19.

"Steelers have found their edge in the final two games, should be scary in the playoffs," Fox Sports' John Czarnecki said.

The Baltimore Ravens, the

third team from the AFC North to make the playoffs, stayed at No. 7 and will face the Tennessee Titans in the postseason for the second consecutive year.

"As his unit continues to set records, how Ravens offensive coordinator Greg Roman isn't at or near the top of the interview list among potential head coaching candidates is mind-boggling," said Alex Marvez of Sirius XM.

"His system is unconventional by NFL standards — which is a good thing — and Roman has now successfully developed two young quarterbacks into top-tier players in Lamar Jackson and Colin Kaepernick back when he was with San Francisco."

The Titans, who remained at No. 9 in the poll, upset the favored Ravens last year in the playoffs on their way to the AFC championship game.

The only team in the top 10 to lose any ground was the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who slipped from a tie for seventh into eighth place despite closing out the regular season with a rout of the Atlanta Falcons. Tom Brady will play his first postseason game for the Buccaneers at Washington on Saturday night.

Washington, which finished 7-9 and won the NFC East, moved up a spot to No. 16 after topping Philadelphia in the last game of the regular season and was the lowest-ranked team to make the playoffs. □

## Whan makes surprise decision to leave as LPGA commissioner



**In this May 6, 2015, file photo, LPGA commissioner Mike Whan speaks during a press conference at The Players Championship golf tournament in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.**

Associated Press

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

Mike Whan is leaving the LPGA Tour after 11 years as commissioner, a surprise announcement Wednesday that comes just three weeks after he guided the tour through a season cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whan did not set a date for when he would leave. The announcement was described as the start of a succession plan.

Even though the pandem-

ic shut down the LPGA Tour for five months and took a chunk out of a decade of savings, Whan says the tour came out of the year even more financially secure.

He did not offer a clear reason for stepping away or saying what he would do next.

"The LPGA is poised for even greater heights, and as such, I'm excited to hand the baton to the next leader and become their biggest supporter," he

said in a letter to the LPGA staff, members and sponsors. "One of the hardest jobs of a leader is to know when their work is done. If the COVID-19 pandemic taught me anything, it was that the LPGA executive staff has full control of our business and is capable of incredible things."

The announcement comes two weeks before the LPGA Tour begins a new season, back to full strength going into the year. □